

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

October 11, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Dave Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah

Regrets: Bill Brown, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza, Caleb Steiner, Toby Strout

Staff: Chris Bentley

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Public comment:

Darrell Boggess, affiliated with SIREN (Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network) commended BCOS for their work

Approval of Minutes: the August minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair:

Update on transportation letter/discussion from last meeting

a. Q & A with Adrian Reid, City Engineering

- Adrian sent a very thorough email, explaining the design and other details for the roundabouts from an engineer's perspective.

Key concerns expressed by BCOS members:

- Size of the roundabouts especially the one at Sare/Rogers.
- Pedestrian friendliness of the roundabout.
- Concern that we are encouraging more motor vehicle traffic when Bloomington is trying to lower vehicular traffic.
- Housing crisis means banks probably won't support development there anyway.
- Data shows that this area is one of the fastest growing areas and so roadways need to address that potential growth especially since this is a federal aid project.
- Roundabout design makes biking confusing and dangerous
- Development is too close to the Monroe Watershed

Positive Aspects of roundabouts:

- Roundabouts are traffic calming and so slowing motor traffic makes it a lot safer for bikes.
- Added side ramps in all four sides to increase safety.
- Right of way for the building of the roundabout has already been purchased so City is ready to build
- County plan might lead to increased traffic whether or not this new development happens.

- Roundabouts increase efficiency by decreasing wait times and idling.
 - Engineering has tried to be sensitive on land.
 - The Sare and Rogers project will include \$1 million in storm water maintenance upgrades.
 - Possible options for BCOS:
 1. Increase level of language in letter
 2. Make a proposal
 3. Thank Adrian for time and not proceed further
- Next Steps:
- Design is 99% complete for the roundabout
 - Construction would be next
 - Put in 2013 budget so wouldn't start until then.

Additional Questions:

- *How was this funded?* MPO transportation enhancement funds and Highway safety improvement funds.
- *What does complete streets mean?* Complete street policies have been in force in Bloomington since the 80's. They include considerations for sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, bus pull offs, crosswalks, and safety striping. Dave R. mentioned that \$300,000 was allocated for this year's budget.
- *Would cars need to stop when entering roundabouts or for pedestrians?* Indiana is a yield state. Motorists would have to yield to pedestrian. No pedestrian fatalities at roundabouts have occurred in the entire country. Adrian referred to the Indy Keystone project as a successful roundabout project. If we build the roundabout this way, we don't have to deal with it for 20 years. Dave R. would prefer that funding go to focus on a rail system study. Get matching funds from MPO.
- *How much would cost to redesign?* Adrian estimated \$50-100,000. Bloomington has already spent \$300,000 designing this project.
- *What can we do as a commission?* Could support Dave's initiative, but Maggie is concerned that we're so late in the process that she doesn't want to approach city council with changes at this point.
- *Are there projects we should know about?* Tapp Rd. and Rockport is a project to keep on your radar screen

ACTION ITEMS: Maggie will draft a letter requesting a seat at the table earlier in the planning of future road projects.

- Discussion of possible rain barrel sale
 - This was skipped since Melissa and Jacqui are gone.
- Reschedule of May 2012 meeting (conflict with primary election): the group voted to move the May meeting to May 15.

Committee reports

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee volunteer?
 - Maggie will no longer be available to attend this meeting since her work conflicts. They meet Wednesday afternoons. They get to discuss construction jobs before they are finalized.

ACTION ITEMS: Dave P. volunteered
- STAR committee report
 - Cynthia: They reported 2 months ago and committee set energy targets. Topics have been compiled on the websites. There are links to 4 targets with individual pages for each target. Goals are set for 2014. We hope to have more aggressive goals each year. Housing has a page as well. Our overall goal

is to reach out to departments working in those areas so talked to HAND. They're focusing on targets from STAR report. We'll be back next month to report other developments. The STAR report will be online from now on rather than once a year. This will allow greater flexibility and more updated data.

ACTION ITEMS: Motion to approve water targets—Dave motioned and unanimously approved

- ii. *How did you come up with these numbers?* The committee researched other communities and looked at a report (Peak Oil Task Force report). They tried to set stretch goals but yet achievable ones. Ultimately, the numbers represent the best guess from a lot of people.
 - iii. Dave R.: Sewer rate increase is coming down the pipe. The important thing here is to study feasibility of anaerobic waste methane generation. He would love to be involved in studying this issue but representatives should sit down with the head of utilities to get fully educated in issues before gathering a committee to look into this possibility.
 - iv. *Are there resources through IU?* IU is exploring uses for food waste
 - c. Reports from Water, Energy, Food, Communication
 - i. Water: Melissa and Jacqui are still looking into Coca-cola barrels
 - ii. Energy: The committee is working with SIREN to get together activities—Going Solar Conference last year generated 6 solar projects. Other possible future contacts: IU, Earthcare. Summer intern gathered data on projects. There are currently 100,000 kWhs of solar power generated in Bloomington through solar sources.
 - iii. Food: The committee is active in food policy council. Updated report is about two weeks away.
 - iv. Communication: Ted designed business cards for the new GNN website.
- ACTION ITEMS:** BCOS agreed unanimously to reimburse Ted for these expenses.

New Business

- a. Discussion of potential projects for Bill's students
 - Students present: Christy Hurst, Shawn, Chad, Rachel, Andrew, Ryan

What are the problems we're trying to solve?

 - Food systems and waste water
 - Public events green certification programs
 - Economic impacts of bicycles
 - Incentives for green building
- b. Bill has 17 students, so class has been broken up into 4 groups. BCOS is thrilled to have someone working with the high school.

What resources can students use from BCOS? Fleshing out parameters of projects might be helpful. The students could look into what the City already has. For example, the Platinum bike committee would love to have analysis. Could be part of whole process.

Would this require expertise outside of BCOS? Possibly the Engineering department could help. A consulting firm will be looking at bike infrastructure locations. BCOS recommends the students get a hold of Scott Robinson from the City.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **7:20**